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### U.S. Intelligence Steps Up Monitoring of Soviet Military

BERNARD SHAW: With [a] potential confrontation shaping up in Moscow, U.S. intelligence agencies have stepped up their spying on the Red Army. The main question they want answered: If the troops are ordered to crush the Yeltsin supporters at that Russian Parliament building, will they obey?

Our military affairs correspondent Wolf Blitzer.

WOLF BLITZER: U.S. officials say the backbone of the Soviet military presence in and around Moscow consists of the Tula Quick Reaction Division, the Taman Mechanized Infantry Division, and a separate heavy tank division. Those three divisions are normally based in Moscow, and U.S. intelligence has confirmed reports that some troops from the Tula and Taman Divisions have pledged loyalty to Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin.

If force is ordered by the new hard-line Soviet leadership, U.S. officials say those divisions would be backed up by other highly disciplined armed elements, including elite airborne

units from the regular Army, KGB police, and Ministry of Interior Black Beret militia.

LT. GEN. WILLIAM ODOM (Ret.) [former National Security Council Adviser]: Black Berets are clearly the most disciplined and reliable politically. They've been developed in the last two or three years specifically to raise both the level of competence and crowd-control in violence, and reliability.

BLITZER: Experts say many of the troops will be non-ethnic Russians from the Central Asian republics, most of whom do not even speak Russian.

GEORGE CARVER [former CIA official]: You don't want to order troops to shoot their cousins, because the troops might turn around and turn their guns against those who gave the order.

BLITZER: Other specialists agree that the longer Yeltsin can remain in power, the more difficult the Soviet military response will become.

DALE HERSPRING [Soviet military expert]: I think the cohesion of the Soviet military, which is open to question, is directly proportionate to the volatility of the resistance that's put up against them.

BLITZER: President Bush says he does not want to escalate the crisis by ordering any precipitious military move.

PRESIDENT BUSH: This isn't a time to threaten militarily or to move forces around just to show machoism. That's not what's called for here.

BLITZER: Pentagon officials acknowledge they're having a very hard time monitoring all the dramatic events. Said one official, "The train is moving so fast, no one is keeping up."

Wolf Blitzer, CNN, the Pentagon.